

LOU BARLETTA

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The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St. NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

I write to you today to express my strong support for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program and to urge the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to preserve funding for this program as you prepare the Trump Administration's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

The 21st CCLC Program provides formula grants to support the creation of academic enrichment opportunities for children outside of schools hours. It is the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to afterschool programs. I have seen the value of this program firsthand through my work with Pennsylvania's Schools and Homes in Education (SHINE) program, which gets half of its funding through 21st CCLC grants.

SHINE is an afterschool program for students in grades K-8 which focuses on a project-based STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum. It successfully brings educators, administrators, and parents together to address the challenges that working families face and helps children build a stronger academic and social foundation.

SHINE has yielded numerous positive outcomes for participating students. An evaluation performed from 2007 to 2012 found that of the 1,600 students who participated in the program during that period, 79 percent improved their academic performance, 96 percent were promoted to the next grade, and 92 percent had exceptionally good or satisfactory school attendance.

These impressive outcomes are not unique to the SHINE program. The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning analyzed 68 different afterschool programs and found that students showed improved behavior and performed better academically than students who did not participate in these afterschool programs. Additionally, students who regularly participated in afterschool programs improved their school attendance, class participation, behavior, and improved their reading and math achievement performance. Importantly, according to the Afterschool Alliance, eight in ten parents say afterschool programs help them keep their jobs.

We must provide students, educators, and families with the tools necessary to be successful in today's workforce. The 21st CCLC Program is fundamental in helping our children secure brighter, more prosperous futures. Therefore, I would like to again reiterate my support for this program, and respectfully request OMB fund the 21st CCLC Program at or above the authorized level of \$1 billion as part of the forthcoming Trump Administration's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Thank you for your kind attention to my request. Should your staff have additional questions, please have them reach out to my Legislative Assistant, Kevin O'Keefe, at Kevin.OKeefe@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-6511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lou Barletta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lou" and last name "Barletta" clearly distinguishable.

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress